(e) if so, what are the details thereof;

(f) whether it is a fact that several bank officials misuse their authority in sanctioning a number of fictitious loans; and

(g) what are the details of the reported cases of such banks/bank officials, the amount involved and action taken against the officer who sanctioned loan and the persons receiving the loans under mass loaning scheme under false identification papers (since the scheme's operation till date)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (g) The Government have formulated an Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) for improving the economic status of the weaker section of the society in rural areas. A Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor has been formulated for weaker sections in urban areas.

Under IRDP government subsidy to the extent of 25%, 33-1/3% or 50% of the project cost is provided to small farmers, marginal farmers/ agricultural labourers and tribals respectively. The balance amount of project cost comes in the form of bank credit at an interest rate of 10% per annum. Under SEPUP the beneficiaries are provided bank credit at an interest rate of 10% per annum and 25% of the project cost is given as capital subsidy from Government to be adjusted in the borrowal account after repayment of the loan component. The beneficiaries under IRDP are identified by District Rural Development Agency while under SEPUP identification of urban poor is done by banks themselves.

The banks while determining the eligibility of borrowers under a particular scheme, observe the norms laid down for that scheme and also follow the guidelines prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India for lending to priority sector. The RBI guidelines *inter-alia* provide lower rates of interest for small and marginal farmers, liberal margin and security norms for small borrowers as well as non-charging of penal interest on small loans. The concerned banks managements take action as appropriate in cases, as may come to their notice of any abuse of authority in sanctioning of loans.

Establishment of New Free Trade Zones

*320. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Free Trade Zones are operating in India at present and whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to establish new Free Trade Zones; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) Six Export Processing Zones/Free Trade Zones are presently operating at Kandla (Gujarat), Santacruz (Bombay), Cochin, Madras, Falta (West Bengal) and Noida (U.P.) The establishment of a Seventh Export Processing Zone at Visakhapatnam has been approved.

Continuance of Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme in Maharashtra

@2379 SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government for continuance of the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Schemes for ten years beyond 30th June, 1989; and

(b) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

@Previously Unstarred Question 1823, transferred from the 10th March, 1989.